



LA

R57

W3A77

Author

Title

Imprint



1257  
Q. 1  
10308

HISTORY  
OF THE  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OF  
GEORGETOWN, D. C.,

*From October 22, 1810, to August 1, 1875, written, at request  
and published by order of the Board of Trustees of Public  
Schools, for the National Centennial Year, 1876,*

BY  
SAMUEL YORKE AT LEE.

---

Extracted and printed separately, by permission, from the TWENTY-EIGHTH REPORT OF THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, for the Centennial Year, 1876.

---



LA 257  
W.3-277



## HISTORY

OF THE

# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN,

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

FROM OCTOBER 22, 1810, TO AUGUST 1, 1875; WRITTEN AT THE REQUEST AND  
PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS, FOR THE  
NATIONAL CENTENNIAL YEAR, 1876,

BY SAMUEL YORKE AT LEE.

---

The Public Schools of Georgetown began their existence sixty-six years ago in the manner set forth in the following memorial to the Corporation of Georgetown :

*Memorial of the Trustees of the Georgetown Free School.*

Your memorialists, with many other inhabitants of Georgetown, seeing the necessity of some public establishment for the purpose of dispensing the benefits of education to those who, from their circumstances, are excluded from its inestimable advantages, have associated themselves together with a view to effect so desirable an object.

Of this Society your memorialists have been elected the Trustees, and are authorized and directed to solicit all necessary aid for accomplishing the design of the Society.

They, therefore, beg leave to state that the funds of the Society consist of an annual subscription of about \$900, a sum which, it is expected, with the probable increase of annual subscribers, will be adequate to the ordinary annual expenditure of the institution.

Nothing now remains to enable the Society to carry their purposes into immediate execution, and to employ these funds in the manner intended, but the procuring a proper lot of ground and preparing the necessary buildings, and for this the Society have to rely on such contributions as the liberality of the citizens may afford them.

They, therefore, apply, in the first place, to the Corporation of Georgetown, hoping that some public assistance may, reasonably, be asked for a purpose which is so peculiarly of public importance.

Your memorialists forbear to enumerate the many beneficial consequences which must result to society at large from diffusing instruction and improvement among so numerous a class of its members as the poor. They con-



sider these consequences, as well as the higher and more worthy motives to prompt to a concurrence with their design, as sufficiently obvious, and will not permit them to doubt that they will readily present themselves and properly influence your consideration.

Your memorialists, therefore, respectfully solicit the aid of the Corporation, and trust that such assistance may be afforded as you may consider just and reasonable.

By order of the Board of Trustees :

THOMAS CORCORAN, *President.*  
JOHN ABBOT, *Secretary.*

GEORGETOWN, *October 22, 1810.*

Whether the aid sought was given by the municipality does not appear from any extant or accessible records, but an encouraging answer may be presumed, as, eight months afterwards, June 22, 1811, the following joint resolution was, on the recommendation of the Mayor, adopted by the two Boards :

*“Resolved by the Board of Aldermen and Board of Common Council of the Corporation of Georgetown, That the Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen, and Common Council of this Corporation be, and they are hereby, requested to attend the procession of the Lancaster Society on Monday morning next, for the purpose of laying the corner-stone of the school house.”*

It may reasonably be supposed that the building had been completed, for, about five months after the laying of the corner-stone, viz : November 18, a school on the Lancasterian plan had been put into operation under Mr. Robert Ould, a teacher invited from England on the recommendation of Joseph Lancaster himself. Mr. Ould's management was very successful, and the school received a decided token of the good will of the Corporation in the following enactment, January 29, 1812 :

*“Resolved by the Board of Aldermen and Board of Common Council of the Corporation of Georgetown, That the square of ground heretofore conveyed by the Rev. Mr. Leonard Neale to certain persons for the purpose of carrying on a public system of education, which deed bears date the 9th January, 1812, be, and the same is hereby, exempt from the payment of all kinds of taxes heretofore imposed since the 1st January, 1811, or hereafter to be imposed by this Corporation : Provided, however, That should the aforesaid property ever hereafter be diverted from the object of the founder, the same shall be liable for all taxes which the same is hereby exempted from : And provided, That nothing contained in this resolution shall be construed to the refunding of any taxes imposed and collected on said property prior to 1st January, 1811 : And provided also, That the taxes from which the said property is hereby exempted shall be paid out of the general fund of the Corporation.”*

The Lancasterian School of Georgetown was soon filled with scholars, and the Society, finding their annual subscriptions of \$900 insufficient for supplying the additional room required, were compelled to invoke municipal aid before six months had elapsed.

The following Memorial was presented to the Corporation, by William Marbury, esq., on behalf of the Trustees of the “Georgetown Lancaster School :”

“The Trustees of the Georgetown Lancaster School beg leave to represent

to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council of Georgetown, that their efforts to impart to the citizens of Georgetown the great and unrivaled advantages of education, according to the system devised by the distinguished Preceptor and Philanthropist, Joseph Lancaster, have been attended with the best success, according to the limited means the Society has possessed to carry into effect this all-important end.

“The proficiency of the scholars is at once a proof of the happy adaptation of a plan of education so plain, so unembarrassed, and so ready of execution as it has been rendered under the judicious direction of Mr. Robert Ould.

“The school contains already 340 male and female scholars, and such is the increasing reputation of the school, and of the growing population of the town, that the school house cannot at this time accommodate all the applicants for tuition.

“The Trustees, from a desire to make this seminary a happy instrument for the improvement of the minds and, they trust, the morals, of the present youth of both sexes, have hitherto admitted females into the school, not in exact conformity with the rules of the Lancasterian system, nor yet without serious objections on the part of the Trustees themselves to a union of the sexes in an assemblage so large and, necessarily, so promiscuous. This, however, can no longer be admissible, because it is evidently objectionable, and more especially because there is not at the present time more room than will accommodate the boys belonging to the institution.

“But as it is a sorrowful reflection to the Trustees, and must be a subject of general regret, that the females, the distinguished ornaments of creation, should experience that neglect of education which, unhappily, is too prevalent towards them throughout the world, the Trustees have digested a plan of instruction for the females that they are anxious to adopt, if they can meet with the necessary aid from those to whom this memorial is addressed.

“Hitherto the pecuniary resources of the Trustees have been such only as were voluntarily afforded, and although they acknowledge with the greatest gratitude the laudable benevolence of many of their worthy fellow-citizens, yet, as it has not been general, even among the most wealthy, their exchequer has been very much stinted, and their debts have become many and unavoidable.

“The Trustees have accordingly no other alternative than a direct application to this worshipful Corporation. It is to sustain a great public good that this appeal is made, and they know no other power to which they can address themselves with success than to the legal guardians and representatives of the town.

ROBERT BEVERLEY,  
DANL. BUSSARD,  
ROBT. MUNRO,  
*Committee.”*

Amongst the old documents submitted to our inspection was the following Petition, which exhibits the names of so many of the solid men of Georgetown, original subscribers to the Lancaster School Fund, that it is printed in full :

*To the Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen, and Common Council of the Corporation of Georgetown:*

The petition of the subscribers humbly representeth that an addition to the Lancaster School, for the accommodation of the female scholars, would be a publick good and the means of educating many who are destitute of the means within themselves. We therefore pray your aid, by such appropriation of the funds under your control as will enable the Trustees to build an

addition to the house that will accommodate two hundred female scholars. And we will, as in duty bound, pray, &c.

John Lipscomb,	George Bohrer,	Alexander Carmichael,
William Ratrie,	David English,	Walter Newton,
Lewis Labille,	George B. Magruder,	John Hollingshead,
Alexander Kile,	Zadock C. Chesley,	Adam King,
William Morgan,	Thomas C. Hodges,	John Hersey,
John Mountz, jr.,	J. M. Jackson,	Ebenezer Sharon,
John Ragau,	Robert B. Kirby,	John Wheelwright,
George Holtzman,	R. Wells,	John I. Stull,
John Stembel,	Thomas J. Mudd,	John Eliason,
Wm. F. Holtzman,	William Y. Wetzel,	William King, jr.,
Jacob Holtzman,	Abraham Landes,	George Craig,
Robert Clarke,	Ninian Magruder,	George Johnson,
George Brome,	William Parsons,	George H. Gloyd,
Ignatius Newton,	Walter Greenfield,	William Degges,
Cephas Fox,	James Denison,	Washington Bowie,
Thomas Marcey,	Samuel Denison,	Joseph Brooks,
Abner Ritchie,	Jacob Staley,	Charles A. Beatty,
Edward Clarke,	George Peters,	James Kennedy,
Horatio Smallwood,	Alexander Mackey,	James Melvin, jr.,
Henry Weaden,	John Lutz,	James Melvin,
Garner Sherman,	Noble Hurdle,	Henry Upperman,
John Brannon,	Edward Degges,	John Cox,
Adam Mayn,	C. Smith,	William Steuart,
Jacob Wineberger,	D. Kurtz,	John Travers,
Heinrich Schultze,	Benjamin P. Mackall,	A. Suter,
Thomas Beatty, jr.,	William Whann,	D. Whann,
John Myers,	W. A. Rind,	John Macdaniel, jr.,
Daniel Miller,	W. D. Addison,	Bartleson Fox,
Henry Ruth,	J. M. Beatty,	Samuel Hutchins,
Jacob Carter,	Robert Craig,	Leonard H. Johns,
Jacob Bohrer,	Samuel Bootes,	Nicholas Hedges.
Henry Magee,	James Turner,	

The following Ordinance, apparently responsive to these appeals, was dated May 9, 1812 :

*An ordinance for the advancement of useful education in Georgetown.*

Whereas the Trustees of the Georgetown Lancaster School have represented to the Corporation of Georgetown that by the increased number of pupils it has become necessary to enlarge the present school house belonging to said institution, and they have proposed that the contemplated addition shall be made in such a manner as to admit of and to be calculated for a separation of the girls from the boys, and to be devoted to that purpose; said Trustees have applied to this Corporation for assistance in building the same :

And whereas the great and primary object of said institution in this place appears to be the education of the poor gratuitously, an object which ought to meet with encouragement from all public bodies, being in a high degree calculated to promote virtue and good morals in the youth of the place, and, necessarily, tending to the good of the community :

And whereas for the advancement of so laudable a purpose it has been thought reasonable that the sum of money hereinafter mentioned be appropriated as a donation from this Corporation :

*Be it therefore ordained by the Board of Aldermen and Board of Common Council of the Corporation of Georgetown,* That the sum of \$1,000 be and the same is appropriated and given by this Corporation to the Trustees of



the Lancaster School in Georgetown for the express purpose of enabling them to erect an addition to their present school house, to accommodate the females of said school; that the same shall be built at the north end of and adjoining their said present building, to be of brick and of the same height and width, to be at least 48 feet long, and to be so constructed as to accommodate 250 scholars, at the least. This donation is to be understood to be on the further faith, on the part of said Trustees, that there shall be, at all times hereafter, admitted or received for education in said schools, at least 200 charity scholars, if so many shall apply, the said sum of \$1,000 to be paid in the following installments, viz: \$200 immediately, \$200 in twelve months, \$200 in two years, \$200 in three years, and the remaining \$200 in four years, after the passing of this ordinance.

SEC. 2. *Be it further ordained.* That before any money is paid or applied by authority of this ordinance, the Trustees of the Lancaster School shall, by a sufficient instrument of writing under their corporate seal, to be approved by the Recorder, bind themselves and their successors that the house to be built shall be used for the sole purposes hereinbefore expressed; and if the Trustees shall cease to use the same as such, then the said house, with the ground on which the same is erected, shall be vested in this Corporation, in trust, to reimburse them the said amount of money and interest so as aforesaid hereby given. And it shall be the duty of the Mayor to have said instrument duly recorded amongst the land records for the county of Washington."

Meanwhile, the reputation of the Lancasterian School had been expanding, and particularly attracted the notice of the Trustees of the Public Schools of Washington. The journal of that Board, September 16, 1811, notes the reception of "a letter from Mr. Dashiell, a teacher in the Lancasterian School of Georgetown, suggesting a similar school in Washington," which was referred to a committee. This committee, on the 11th of the following November, made a report thereon, which was adopted, and an order was made "that there shall be one school in the city of Washington, as near as practicable in the center thereof, to be conducted on the plan of and as nearly correspondent as may be with the forms observed in the Lancasterian School." A Superintending Committee was forthwith elected, authorized to provide a suitable building, to engage a teacher, and to put such school into full operation; and on the 13th of the following April, 1812, the Committee reported that, in conformity with instructions, the Lancasterian School had been formally opened February 10, 1812.

The Lancasterian system maintained its position in the esteem of the citizens of Georgetown so successfully that the following ordinance was passed, October 6, 1815, by the Corporation, after four years' observation of its results:

*An Ordinance for the Promotion of Education in Georgetown.*

"*Be it ordained by the Board of Aldermen and Board of Common Council of the Corporation of Georgetown.* That instead of the sum heretofore annually appropriated to the Trustees of the Georgetown Lancasterian School Society, there be hereafter yearly and every year, on the day when the same has been heretofore payable, paid to the Trustees of the said Society the sum of one thousand dollars, for the purpose of assisting the said Trustees in defraying the expenses of the school; and that the same be paid by the Clerk of this Corporation quarter-yearly to the order of the Trustees, out of any moneys not otherwise appropriated. And it is hereby

understood and declared that this appropriation is made and granted upon condition that the said Trustees shall receive into the said school all destitute children, and such as have parents unable to educate them, within the limits of the Corporation, and there provide books and other things necessary for their instruction, and cause them to be educated agreeably to the regulations of said school.

"SEC. 2. *And be it further ordained*, That whenever any such destitute or poor child or children shall have completed their education agreeably to the rules of said school, there shall be given to such child or children, by the Trustees, a certificate directed to the Mayor of Georgetown that such child or children has or have completed his, her, or their education. And that upon the Mayor's receiving such certificate it shall be his duty to cause every such child or children, as aforesaid, (if they have not been bound out according to law,) to be bound out according to the laws in force in this county.

"SEC. 3. *And be it further ordained*, That the said Trustees shall, at the expiration of every year, make a report to the Corporation of the number of children educated in their school, and of their annual receipts and expenditures.

"SEC. 4. *And be it further ordained*, That it shall be the duty of the Corporation, by joint ballot of both Boards, to appoint annually, on the first meeting of the Corporation in December, four persons out of their body, whose duty it shall be to visit the schools occasionally, for the purpose of examining into the police thereof, and correcting any little irregularities which may exist, and to see that order and morality, as well in as out of the school, be maintained."

The next municipal legislation was on the 15th of March, 1824, when a joint resolution predicated on building an additional school house was adopted, as follows:

*"Resolved by the Board of Aldermen and Board of Common Council of the Corporation of Georgetown*, That so much of lot No. 57 in Peters, Beatty, Threlkelds, and Deakin's addition to Georgetown, fronting 70 feet on First street and 63 feet on Fayette street, and the house erected thereon, be exempt from all general taxes imposed by this Corporation, during the time the same shall be occupied as a seminary of learning, and the Trustees thereof educate a number of children without charge."

In 1833, there was, apparently, some movement in Congress favorable to the endowment of Free Schools in the District of Columbia; for on the 4th of February the following joint resolution was adopted:

*Resolution directing the Mayor to reply to the Letter of Honorable the Chairman of the Committee on the District of Columbia, in the House of Representatives.*

*"Resolved by the Board of Aldermen and Board of Common Council of the Corporation of Georgetown*, That the Mayor be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to inform the Honorable the Chairman of the Committee on the District of Columbia, in the House of Representatives, in reply to his letter of 12th ult., that, in the event of Congress appropriating a sum of money for the establishment and support of Free Schools within the District of Columbia, this Corporation will assent that the said sum be invested in the stock of the Rockville and Frederick Turnpike Company."

Congress, as usual, disappointed the expectations of the friends of education in the District by adjourning without favorable action, and the

Free School was forced again to solicit aid from the Corporation, which, as theretofore, was generously afforded by a joint resolution adopted on the 4th of the following May :

*Resolution in relation to the Georgetown Free School.*

“*Resolved by the Board of Aldermen and Board of Common Council of the Corporation of Georgetown, That the sum of \$200 be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, and that the Clerk pay the same to the order of a majority of the Trustees of the Georgetown Free School, as a donation for the benefit of said school.*”

After the lapse of four years a joint effort was made by the municipal authorities of Washington, Alexandria, and Georgetown to obtain an appropriation from Congress, and the following joint resolution, adopted May 27, 1837, shows how heartily the authorities of Georgetown coöperated in the effort :

*A Resolution respecting Public Schools.*

“*Resolved by the Board of Aldermen and Board of Common Council of the Corporation of Georgetown, That we highly approve of a resolution passed by the Corporation of Washington, approved 7th April, 1837, entitled ‘A resolution in relation to Public Schools,’ and that the Mayor, President of the Board of Aldermen, President of the Board of Common Council, Bennet Clements, and Robert White, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to coöperate with any committee which has been or may hereafter be appointed by the Corporations of Washington and Alexandria to prepare a memorial to be presented to Congress at an early period of the next session, praying for an appropriation, either of lands or money, for the endowment of a system of education that shall embrace the whole District of Columbia, by which the children of all may equally enjoy the inestimable advantages of a liberal education.*”

“*Resolved, That the Mayor be, and he is hereby, requested to transmit a copy of the foregoing resolution to the Mayors of Washington and Alexandria.*”

This joint effort was without favorable result.

The schools were, however, continued in operation, supported by private contribution and by the annual payment from the city treasury provided by the ordinance of October 6, 1815, until the burden became too oppressive to the surviving subscribers, in a list registered thirty-two years before, when the Corporation generously relieved them by enacting, on the 31st of December, 1842, the following ordinance :

*An Ordinance establishing the Georgetown School.*

“*Be it ordained by the Board of Aldermen and Board of Common Council of the Corporation of Georgetown, That for the purpose of more effectually securing a primary education to the poor of both sexes within the limits of this town, the schools now in operation and supported by appropriation out of the public moneys be taken under the exclusive care of the corporate authority, and that guardians thereof be annually appointed, in joint meeting of the two Boards, on the first Monday in January.*”

“*2. And be it further ordained, That the guardians of the Georgetown School, by which name it shall henceforth be known and designated, shall consist of seven members, two of whom at least shall be members of the Corporation, to be appointed as hereinbefore provided, to serve one year and until successors are appointed to take their places; and the said guard-*



ians are hereby vested with full powers to provide for the keeping of said schools, and to manage the same for the public interest; to make such by-laws and regulations as they may deem best for the government and the good of the schools; to elect and appoint the respective and necessary teachers from time to time, and fix their compensation. And that in no case shall the teachers be permitted to receive pay for the tuition of any of the children that may be admitted, as hereinafter provided for, other than the annual pay to be fixed by the guardians.

"3. *And be it further ordained*, That the teachers respectively shall prepare and submit to the Board of Guardians, quarterly, statements of the condition of the schools, the number of scholars upon the rolls, and the number in the habit of daily attendance. They shall also, annually in the month of December, make out and transmit to this Corporation a full report of the condition of the schools, through the Board of Guardians, for public information.

"4. *And be it further ordained*, That it shall be the duty of the teachers to receive all the children that may be sent to them, or either of them, by any member of the Board of Guardians, or by the Trustees of the Poor, any of whom are hereby fully authorized to grant certificates of admission: and to keep a record of the same in books provided for the purpose, showing the names of the children, their ages, and date of entrance into the school, their places of residence, and on whose certificate admitted; but without, directly or indirectly, charging or receiving any compensation therefor, as hereinbefore provided.

"5. *And be it further ordained*, That immediately upon the organization of the Board of Guardians herein authorized, and the appointment by them of one of their body President thereof, and on the same being officially reported to the Mayor, then the Clerk of the Corporation is hereby authorized and directed to transfer the provision for education to said guardians and pay the same, as may be required by the regulations of that Board; and in the event of a vacancy, they are hereby authorized to fill the same, to serve until the Corporation shall make the annual appointments."

The next mention of the schools in the legislative annuals is an ordinance of June 3, 1843, authorizing the Guardians of Georgetown School to employ a suitable person as assistant teacher in said school for one year from June 1, and appropriating for that purpose \$200.

In 1844, August 24, a joint resolution was adopted, authorizing the Guardians of the Georgetown School to receive any donations of money from the parents or guardians of pupils in the school, or from others.

In 1847, November 6, one hundred and fifty dollars were appropriated in aid of the Georgetown School, to be placed to the credit of the Board of Guardians.

Up to this time our only source of information has been the legislative index of the Corporation, but we have now, from January, 1848, to July, 1874, a continuous journal kept by the Board of Guardians.

### 1848.

The first entry, January 5, 1848, sets forth that the new Board of Guardians appointed by the two Boards of the Corporation on the 3d instant met and exhibited their credentials, viz: Thomas Brown, John Myers, Charles E. Eckel, William McK. Osborn, George Shoemaker, Thomas Jewell, and Charles E. Mix.



Thomas Brown was elected President and Thomas Jewell was elected Secretary.

Rules of order were adopted and standing committees were appointed, &c.

John T. Bangs was appointed Principal Teacher of the Male School, George T. Hilleary, Assistant Teacher, Mrs. Miranda Guy, Teacher of the Female School, whose "salaries were fixed at the amounts respectively allowed last year."

FEBRUARY 2.—A notice from Dr. Ritchie to vacate the house now occupied by the school was read.

APRIL 5.—A communication was received from the Trustees of the Vigilant Fire Company, tendering the hall of said company for the use of the Male School; and said offer was accepted.

MAY 17.—Mrs. Cunningham's room was rented for the Female School.

The following joint resolution was adopted by the Councils July 1, 1848:

"*Resolved*, That the Guardians of the Town School be directed to charge and receive pay for all scholars whose parents or guardians are, in the opinion of a majority of the Board, able to pay not exceeding \$1 per month, for the general use of the school."

SEPTEMBER 6.—*Ordered*, That each of the Principals of the schools be requested to furnish to the Board a list of the scholars in their several departments, for the purpose of ascertaining whether there are any of the children whose parents are, in the opinion of the Board, able to pay for their tuition.

#### 1849.

JANUARY 3.—*Ordered*, That the salary of the Principal Teacher of the Male School shall be... \$400  
Of the Assistant Teacher.. 200  
Of the Principal of the Female School..... 200

JANUARY 13.—A joint resolution was adopted appropriating \$153.47, "that sum being the amount which the Board of Guardians of the School report as necessary to make up deficiencies to relieve the fund from its present embarrassment."

JULY 3.—*Ordered*, That a communication be addressed to the Corporation, informing them that the interests of the schools require more ample accommodations than those now provided in the hall of the Vigilant Fire Company.

In response to this communication the following ordinance was enacted August 11th:

"That for the purpose of procuring a house of ample dimensions for the future permanent accommodation of its Male and Female Free Schools, \$1,200 be paid to the Methodist Episcopal Society for their present church; and that a "sum not exceeding \$800 be devoted to the expense of alteration and proper fitting up for the comfortable accommodation of said Free Schools."

#### 1850.

Nothing, except payments of bills, election of teachers, and such routine acts, appears on the journal of this year.

## 1851.

MAY 13.—*Ordered*, That the Corporation be requested to appropriate \$75 for the purchase of premiums to be awarded at the ensuing Annual Exhibition; to which, with the usual prompt generosity, an answer was returned on the 31st of that month in the following joint resolution:

“*Resolved*, That \$75 be appropriated to defray the expenses of an Annual Exhibition, and for the distribution of premiums.”

## 1852.

FEBRUARY 1.—*Ordered*, That the corporate authorities be requested to appropriate \$500. An ordinance was soon after enacted appropriating “twelve hundred dollars for promotion of education in the year 1852, being supplementary to the ordinance of October 6, 1815, and repealing so much of the ordinance of August 11, 1849, as provides for the payment of interest on the purchase money of the church building on Montgomery street.”

MAY 1.—The Board, in consideration of the terms of said ordinance, raised the salaries, as follows:

Principal Teacher of Male School.....	\$475
Assistant Teacher of Male School.....	275
Principal Teacher of Female School.....	225
Assistant Teacher of Female School.....	150

JULY 1.—*Ordered*, That premiums be dispensed with at the ensuing Annual Exhibition, on account of the lack of money.

## 1853.

FEBRUARY 1.—*Ordered*, That the President be requested to make the annual report, and to ask the Corporation for an appropriation of \$1,500; which was affirmatively responded to by the Corporation, February 14th.

APRIL 2.—The salaries were graded as follows:

Principal Teacher Male School.....	\$550
Assistant Teacher Male School.....	300
Principal Teacher Female School.....	225
Assistant Teacher Female School.....	150

JUNE.—One hundred dollars having been donated by Mr. William W. Corcoran, \$75 were appropriated for buying premiums for the Male School, and \$25 for the Female School; said premiums to be distributed at the ensuing Annual Exhibition of July 26th. The President was also authorized to procure refreshments for the pupils of both departments of the school.

SEPTEMBER 29.—*Ordered*, That five dollars be appropriated to enable the Principal Teacher of the Male School to purchase some instruments for the extraction of teeth, &c., to be used in the school.

## 1854.

FEBRUARY 8.—Salaries continued as they were last year, except the salary of the Assistant of the Female School, which was increased to \$200.

JUNE.—Mr. Corcoran's annual donation of \$100 having been received, \$75 and \$25 were appropriated, respectively, to the Male and Female Schools for premiums.

The exhibition took place on the 26th of July; and the Board were “so highly gratified” on the occasion that a note thereof was recorded in the Journal.

The death of Mrs. Guy was also recorded in the Journal, “for a long period the efficient and faithful Principal Teacher of the Female Department.”

## 1855.

JANUARY 6.—Mrs. E. Walker was elected Principal Teacher of the Female School. The salaries as they were last year, except that the compensation of the Assistant Teacher of the Female School was raised to \$225.

*Ordered*, That the Public School be visited during each week of the scholastic year by the members of the Board alternately; and the Board thereupon allotted to each member his day of visitation.

APRIL 4.—*Ordered*, That, in view of the insufficiency of the school fund, the Corporation be asked for an additional appropriation of \$1,000; and the Corporation responded, June 2, by a joint resolution allowing \$2,500 for the expenses of the school in 1855.

JUNE 5.—*Ordered*, That, after the necessary amount be set apart out of the sum appropriated by the Councils for the incidental expenses of the school, the remainder be divided *pro rata* among the teachers.

## 1856.

APRIL 3.—The following reports were received and read :

SCHOOL ROOM, April 1, 1856.

GENTLEMEN: The first quarter of the present year having expired, it becomes my duty to lay before you the present condition and the future prospects of the school under my charge. The number now on the roll is 69, and the average attendance is 58. It affords me great pleasure to say that, since the partition has been erected, there is a marked improvement in my portion of the school. More time is now devoted to instruction and study than has ever been heretofore, and discipline is, comparatively speaking, easily maintained. In a word, the school has never presented a fairer prospect for usefulness to the community than at the present time.

I still labor under the same disadvantage of irregular attendance which I have so often complained of. I have nothing new to offer, but respectfully suggest that the Board of Guardians pass a law excluding from the schools those pupils who stay away one week in a month, unless they be detained by sickness. If there was a stringent rule like the one adverted to it would, in my opinion, have a good effect; if it did not cure the evil it would very materially lessen it.

W. H. CRAIG,  
*P. T. Male Department.*

Hugh G. Devine, the Assistant Teacher in same department, reported "the healthy and encouraging condition of his school, and the improvement in study and discipline since the erection of the partition. The names on the roll were 80; average attendance 53. He attributed the irregular attendance to the intense cold weather, but thought that "this exiguity of attendance would be corrected in the current quarter."

The summary of the above reports exhibits 149 scholars, and an average attendance of 111 in the male department.

*Ordered*, That a quarterly statement be furnished regularly hereafter by Mrs. Farquhar, Principal of the Female School.

MAY 2.—The Secretary, Mr. J. T. Bangs, presented the following response to a joint resolution of the Councils asking certain information: which was approved, and was ordered to be duly transmitted. The following is an abstract thereof :

"The teachers receive the following salaries :

Principal Teacher Male Department.....	\$800
Assistant Teacher Male Department.....	500
Principal Teacher Female Department.....	400
Assistant Teacher Female Department.....	300



"The annual appropriation being \$2,500, the salaries being deducted will leave \$500 for repairs, fuel, books, stationery, premiums, &c.

"We cannot state the exact amount required for fuel and other incidental expenses, since such expenditure is so much varied by contingencies; but since January 1st \$91.84 have been spent in repairs, and a further amount of say \$20 will be expended for whitewashing and cleaning. No account having heretofore been kept of the expenditures, except by Mr. Mountz, Clerk of the Corporation, and as many of the orders drawn on him were out and unpaid, it was impossible to ascertain the true state of the account when we entered on the duties of Guardians of the School. But we are of the opinion that the school fund for last year was exhausted, if not in arrears; for the undersigned, who was in the Board in 1854, knows that it was behindhand at the close of that year \$100; and we are informed that the new roof and pavement cost last year about \$300, and the same salaries being paid then as at present left only \$100 to pay for books, stationery, &c., which was, we are sure, insufficient.

"By a plan adopted by the present Board we expect to be able to present, if necessary, at the close of the year, a statement showing the exact condition of the school fund.

"To the third inquiry, we answer that the male roll exhibits 150, and an average attendance of 112, and the female roll exhibits 80, and an average attendance of 60."

JULY 3.—Mr. Corcoran's usual gift of \$100 having been received was appropriated for the purchase of books and premiums for distribution at the Annual Exhibition.

DECEMBER 23.—Draft of Annual Report by Guardians to the Corporation presented and approved, and a complete report dated December 29 was afterwards transmitted by the Secretary. The following statistics are extracted therefrom: Male Department, on the roll 68, average attendance 54, admitted during the year 48, withdrawn during the year 46; Male Department, Second Branch, on the roll 90, average attendance 65, admitted during the year 50, withdrawn 52; Female Department, on the roll 71, average attendance 56, admitted during the year 61, withdrawn 53.

### 1857.

MARCH 18.—*Ordered*, That the Board communicate to the Council its desire to establish an additional school, and, to that end, ask the appropriation of the poll tax for immediate use for the present year, in addition to the existing appropriation of \$2,500.

APRIL 1.—*Ordered*, That the Secretary effect an insurance of \$2,000 on the school house and the adjacent dwelling.

APRIL 9.—The following joint resolution, adopted by the Councils, was laid before the Board:

"*Resolved, &c.*, That the Guardians of the Public School furnish estimates of the several repairs required on the building, with the repairs or renewals required for the desks and other fixtures of the school, and state also the probable amount needed for salaries, books, &c.; also on the propriety of establishing a school in the upper part of the town."

An answer thereto having been immediately prepared, was approved and ordered to be duly transmitted. This answer estimated that \$2,749 would be required for the regular and incidental expenses of the present school for the year. The necessity of establishing another school was urged for the reason that of the 140 boys now enrolled at least 40 ought to be provided for elsewhere, as no teacher could properly control and direct more than 50 pupils. The expense of establishing another school was estimated at \$935.

OCTOBER 7.—*Ordered*, That permission be granted to have the children



of the schools, or such of them as would agree, taught music at their own expense.

DECEMBER 2.—Mr. Magee stated that a large number of the scholars had placed themselves under Mr. Hunter, who was teaching them music scientifically, and that their progress was a source of congratulation.

### 1858.

JANUARY 6.—*Ordered*, That, as soon as the means of the Board will allow, Sarah Pearson, now a pupil of the senior Female Department, shall be appointed sub-Assistant Teacher in the junior Female Department, at a compensation of \$100 a year.

Mr. Hyde was appointed a committee to report the cost of canvassing the town for the purpose of ascertaining the number of children between 5 and 18 years of age, designating the number attending public schools, the number attending private schools, and the number not attending any school.

JANUARY 25.—The President reported the failure of the poll levy for 1858.

Mr. Hyde having reported that \$30 would be sufficient, that amount was appropriated, and Mr. W. H. Craig was appointed canvasser.

The following resolutions, offered by Mr. Hyde, were adopted :

“Whereas there is no poll tax levied for 1858—

“*Resolved*, That the sum of one dollar be asked from each person liable to poll tax, as a voluntary contribution to the Public Schools for that year.

“*Resolved*, That the judges of election, on the 15th of February, and in the several precincts at the regular municipal election on the 3d Monday of February, be respectfully requested to receive and enter on a separate poll list, opposite to the donor's name, the amount given in response to the above request.

“*Resolved*, That the Secretary be authorized to publish the necessary notices, in pursuance of the above-mentioned object.

“*Resolved*, That the tax collector be requested to ask the usual poll tax, and receive the same from those disposed to pay it, and who have not previously paid the amount.”

FEBRUARY 3.—Mr. Marbury, in the absence of regular business, stated the particulars of a visit made by the Secretary, Mr. Hyde, and himself to the Board of School Trustees of Washington, in response to an invitation, to consider the expected action of Congress on the bill for the benefit of the Public Schools of Washington. They were very courteously received, and were seated at the Board, and were assured of the willingness and desire of the Washington Trustees to afford the authorities of Georgetown every opportunity for securing a proportionate part of whatever Congress might grant in aid of popular education. Whereupon, it was

*Ordered*, That Messrs. Marbury and Hyde be a committee to coöperate with a like committee of the Trustees of the Washington Schools before Congress.

MARCH 3.—Mr. Marbury made an oral report of having waited on the Chairman of the District Committee of the Senate, and of having received from him assurances of the intention of that committee to report a bill for the benefit of the schools.

APRIL 7.—Mr. Craig's report of his canvass was laid before the Board, and was as follows :

Male children between 5 and 18.....	1,089	
Female.....	1,189	
	<hr/>	2,278
Of which there are in private schools, males.....	320	
Females ...	359	
	<hr/>	679

In schools, public, free, and parish, males.....	250	
Females.....	211	
		461
Not attending any school, males.....	519	
Females.....	619	
		1,138
Summary—in school.....		1,140
Not in school.....		1,138

In conformity with a resolution of January 8th last, Sarah Pearson was appointed a sub-Assistant Teacher.

APRIL 14.—In the matter of a new school it was stated, by Mr. Laird, that the remainder of the school fund had been made subject to the order of the Board for such a purpose, whereupon a committee was instructed to report the most eligible site therefor.

MAY 5.—The Committee having reported that no suitable building for the new school could be obtained, it was

*Ordered*, That a communication be sent to the Councils exhibiting the existing condition of the school fund, and asking an appropriation of \$2,500 for the erection of a new school house.

JUNE 22.—An official copy was received of a joint resolution adopted by the Councils June 9th, as follows :

“Whereas it is represented that a portion of the lot at the corner of High and Fourth streets was originally donated for the purpose of erecting thereon buildings for educational purposes : therefore,

“*Be it resolved, &c.*, That the Guardians of the Town Schools be, and they are hereby, instructed to take such steps as in their judgment may be necessary to secure the above-mentioned lot for the purpose of erecting thereon a suitable house for school purposes.”

Whereupon a committee was instructed to carry out the objects of said joint resolution.

AUGUST 4.—*Ordered*, That the office of sub-Assistant Teacher be for the present abolished ; but the Secretary was directed to assure the incumbent that her duties had been discharged to the entire satisfaction of the Board, and that her office had been abolished solely for the lack of money to pay for her services.

### 1859.

MARCH 2.—A committee was instructed to select a site for erecting the Western Georgetown School.

APRIL 6.—The committee reported as the most suitable the lot at the intersection of High and Market streets ; whereupon Mr. King was authorized to purchase the house and lot of Mr. Reintzell for not exceeding \$400 at private sale ; and if sold at public auction, not to bid over \$450.

JUNE 1.—Mr. Tenney reported the purchase of the house and lot, and he was authorized to purchase the adjoining lot for not exceeding \$275.

AUGUST 24.—Salaries were fixed as follows :

Principal Teacher, Male School.....	\$800
Assistant Teacher, Male School.....	450
Principal Teacher, Female School.....	450
Assistant Teacher, Female School.....	400

OCTOBER 5.—*Ordered*, That \$15 be expended for planting trees in front of the school house.

### 1860.

APRIL 5.—The plan of the new school house submitted by Mr. Magee was approved, and the Secretary directed to advertise for proposals.

APRIL 23.—Seven proposals were received, the lowest of which was for

\$4,880. After consultation, it was concluded that the cost would be too great, and the plan was abandoned, and Mr. Magee was instructed to ascertain the cost of a frame house, 30 by 50, suitable for a school.

MAY 3.—The President was authorized to obtain a plan and specification for a house of such dimensions, with 12 feet ceilings.

MAY 22.—Of three bids received for building the same Mr. Simms's was the lowest, viz: \$2,525, and was accepted.

AUGUST 1.—Permission was given for the introduction of singing into the schools, provided such arrangements be made without expense to the Board.

OCTOBER 3.—Authority to establish a Night School was given, provided means to support it be raised without making a demand on the funds of the Board.

OCTOBER 10.—A teacher for the Night School was elected, at a compensation of \$30 a month, said Night School subject to be closed at any time by order of the Board.

#### 1861.

JANUARY 23.—*Ordered*, That the Corporation be requested to loan \$1,000 to the Board for completing and furnishing the new school house and putting the school in operation.

JUNE 5.—A communication from the Teachers was received, asking that their salaries be raised to an amount sufficient to cover the heavy discount at present on Corporation money, and the Secretary was instructed to inform them that it was a matter over which the Board had no control.

#### 1862.

Nothing outside of routine business appears on the Journal of this year.

#### 1863.

APRIL 1.—Mr. Magee was instructed "to converse with Mr. Daniels, Music Teacher, on the subject of giving instruction to the Town Schools."

JUNE 3.—The President was authorized to employ Mr. Cartwright to finish the basement of the school house on the corner of High and Market streets, for not exceeding \$395, and to pay not exceeding \$25 more for putting up a partition across the building.

Mr. Magee was also authorized to procure thirty sets of desks and chairs, and one hundred and twenty feet of settees, from Baltimore.

AUGUST 5.—*Ordered*, That the two new schools to be opened in September next be one a male and the other a female school. Miss M. A. Hanna was elected Teacher of the Male School, and Miss Martha E. Henstis Teacher of the Female School. It was also ordered that the Female School should be assigned to the upper room, and the Male School to the lower room.

NOVEMBER 4.—*Ordered*, That a memorial be sent to the Corporation asking an appropriation of \$1,000 to aid in opening additional schools, and to meet other expenses pressing on the Board.

#### 1864.

JUNE 7.—*Ordered*, That the Corporation be asked for an appropriation of \$1,200 for refurnishing the four schools on Montgomery street.

AUGUST 2.—Mr. Magee, having reported that the prices asked in Baltimore were not satisfactory, was authorized to visit Boston, and to buy the school furniture there if he thought the prices more reasonable.

The teachers of the six schools, male as well as female, elected this year were all females, and the salaries were fixed as follows:

Teacher of Senior Male School.....	\$750
Teacher of Senior Female School.....	600
Teacher of Primary No. 3.....	550
Teachers of Primaries Nos. 1, 2, 4, each.....	500
Music Master.....	150



*Ordered*, That \$100 be distributed, as an increase of salary for the past year, to the teachers, as follows, viz: to each teacher \$20, except to the teacher of the Senior Male School and to the Music Master.

## 1865.

SEPTEMBER 6.—A committee was instructed to inquire into the expediency and cost of erecting one or more additional school houses.

## 1866.

MARCH 6.—*Ordered*, That the sanction of the Board be given to Mr. Magee in his effort to establish a Library for the Public Schools.

APRIL 3.—Mr. Magee reported as on the way from Boston the vessel with furniture for the schools; also the purchase, for school purposes, of a lot on Bridge street, near Montgomery Street school building, for \$765, and Mr. Dunlop was requested to make out the necessary papers for the conveyance of said lot.

MAY 1.—Mr. Magee stated that the Ladies' Fair for the benefit of the Public Schools had realized about \$400; and the following resolution, offered by Mr. Hyde, was unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Board of Guardians of the Georgetown Schools be, and they are hereby, tendered to Mrs. James Owens, Mrs. William King, Mrs. James F. Essex, Mrs. George Hill, jr., Mrs. Jackson Beall, Mrs. Edward J. Shoemaker, Mrs. John L. Owens, Mrs. Conrad, the Misses Grimes, Miss McCurdy, Miss F. King, Miss Alice Essex, and to other ladies, for their assistance in the management of the late fair for the benefit of the Public Schools; and who, by their untiring energy and devotion, contributed so largely to its success.

*Resolved further*, That the Secretary send a copy of this resolution to the ladies named, and express to them the obligations under which the Board and the schools rest to them for their disinterested labors in securing to the schools the establishment of a library."

AUGUST 4.—Teachers were elected for the current year, and the salary for each of the Primary Schools was made \$500.

SEPTEMBER 7.—A vote of thanks was adopted to Major George Hill, jr., for six beautiful silk flags presented by him to the different schools.

*Ordered*, That the Corporation be requested to suspend the sale of lot on Prospect street until it can be ascertained whether the same may not be suitable for a public school house.

This lot was afterwards given to the Guardians for school purposes. A vote of thanks was adopted to Captain Thomas Brown for nine copies of school premiums presented by him to the Board.

SEPTEMBER 7.—It having been reported to the Board that there was ample space in the High street School house for the accommodation of 30 additional scholars in each of the two rooms, and that the benches now there were sufficient for present use, and that the only additional expense would be in removing some few of the lower desks and the pay of assistant teachers; the Board thereupon elected two Assistant Teachers, assigning to each of them the care of thirty scholars.

NOVEMBER 6.—*Ordered*, That the Spencerian mode of penmanship be adopted in the schools.

## 1867.

JANUARY 8.—A petition was received from the teachers and scholars of the Grammar Schools for the purchase of a piano for the Grammar Schools; using therefor the funds raised for a school library; which, after the consent of the ladies had been given, was agreed to by the Board.

MARCH 5.—A committee was instructed to consider the late law of the



Corporation in regard to the new school building on Prospect street, and to obtain a plan and estimate; and also to consider the site for the same.

APRIL 15.—A communication was received from a Committee of the Order of Odd-Fellows, asking a holiday for the schools on Friday, the 26th instant, that the scholars may unite with them in celebrating the Forty-Eighth Anniversary of the I. O. O. F.; which request was granted.

DECEMBER 3.—An application was presented from the ladies of the "Industrial School" of Georgetown for any old furniture or books; and Mr. Magee was authorized to turn over, as requested, such old furniture and books as he may deem expedient.

### 1868.

MARCH 3.—*Ordered*, That application be made to the Corporation for \$1,800 for the support of the schools the current year.

APRIL 7.—Official information was received that the Corporation had favorably considered the request of the Board, and appropriated the sum of \$1,400.

APRIL 15.—The Board having adopted a memorial to Congress, it was ordered that the same be submitted to the municipal authorities, with a request that, if said memorial be approved, they would transmit the same to Congress. The memorial stated, in detail, the small resources, and the urgent necessities of the schools in Georgetown, and asked an appropriation, in their behalf, of \$20,000.

SEPTEMBER 29.—*Ordered*, That the Clerk of the Corporation be authorized to sell, at his discretion, and transfer the stock lately ordered to be issued for school purposes, and to place the proceeds to the credit of the school fund.

OCTOBER 6.—*Ordered*, That the Secretary be directed to advertise twice a week, for two weeks, for proposals for building a new school house.

OCTOBER 26.—Six proposals were opened, and the bid of W. I. Dyer & Sons being the lowest, viz: \$9,737, a contract with them was authorized.

NOVEMBER 3.—A communication was received, inviting the teachers of the Georgetown schools to unite with the teachers of the Washington schools in receiving French and German lessons free of charge, and the Secretary was directed to note the receipt thereof, and to return the thanks of the Board.

### 1869.

MARCH 2.—*Ordered*, That an advance of twenty-five per cent. on the salaries of teachers be allowed from January 1 to September 1, 1869.

JUNE 1.—The Committee appointed to ascertain the probable expense of furnishing the new school house, having submitted an estimate amounting to \$770, it was

*Ordered*, That the Corporation be asked for an appropriation of \$1,000.

JULY 6.—*Ordered*, That a complimentary appropriation of \$50, out of the school fund, be made to W. Laird, esq., Clerk of the Corporation, for his interest manifested in effecting sales of stock for the benefit of the Public Schools.

AUGUST 10.—The following reorganization of the schools was ordered: Primary, Intermediate, and Grammar, to wit: four Primary, two Intermediate, and two Grammar Schools. Vocal music to be taught in the Grammar and Intermediate Schools; and, as far as practicable, in the Primary Schools, by the teachers, with such assistance as the regular Music Teacher may be able to render.

SEPTEMBER 14.—It having been reported that there were, awaiting vacancies, sixteen boys and thirty-one girls, to whom permits had been issued, it was

*Ordered*, That two half schools, thirty scholars each, be added to the

schools in the High Street building, for boys and girls respectively, with assistant teachers for the same.

The assistant teachers were thereupon elected, with a yearly compensation of \$300.

### 1870.

JANUARY 11.—A communication having been received from the Board of Trustees of the Washington Schools in reference to making a joint application to Congress for aid, a committee was appointed for coöperation.

FEBRUARY 1.—A communication on the subject of aid from Congress was received from the Levy Court of the county, which was ordered to be placed on file; also one from the Committee on Education and Labor, House of Representatives, inclosing certain interrogatories in reference to the schools, which was referred to a committee for answers thereto.

JULY 5.—*Ordered*, That the thanks of the Board of Guardians be most respectfully tendered to the "Evening Star" and to the "National Republican" for their extended notices of the late Annual Examinations and of the distribution of premiums in the Georgetown Public Schools.

AUGUST 2.—*Ordered*, That the salaries of the Assistant Teachers be hereafter \$30 a month.

### 1871.

FEBRUARY 7.—An unsuccessful attempt was made to introduce the study of the German language into the curriculum of the schools.

FEBRUARY 16.—The written request of Geo. S. Gideon, General Secretary of the Carnival Festivities to be held on the 20th and 21st instant, that the children of the Georgetown schools might be allowed to be present thereat, was granted.

MAY 23.—*Ordered*, That \$400 be appropriated for premiums and expenses of the Annual Examination in the ensuing June.

### Territorial Reorganization.

JUNE 16.—The following gentlemen presented their credentials as members of the new Board of Guardians appointed by the Hon. Henry D. Cooke, Governor of the Territory of the District: A. Hyde, G. W. Beall, C. D. Welch, W. L. Dunlop, W. W. Curtis, C. S. Ramsburg, and F. W. Moffat.

The President read a letter from Governor Cooke, regretting the resignation of W. C. Magee as a member of the Board.

The Board was, thereupon, duly organized.

AUGUST 17.—The President laid before the Board a letter from Governor Cooke, making certain inquiries relative to the schools, together with an answer thereto, already prepared by the Secretary; which answer, having been approved, was ordered to be duly transmitted.

*Ordered*, That the President be requested to call on Governor Cooke, and ascertain whether the Board could anticipate its revenue to the amount of \$2,000, to enable it to organize additional schools.

AUGUST 22.—The President stated that he had, as requested, called on Governor Cooke, who replied that the Board might, as desired, issue certificates of indebtedness for \$2,000, and that he would be responsible for the payment thereof.

*Ordered*, That two additional schools be established, of a grade between Primary and Intermediate, one male and one female, and to be called Secondary.

### First Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Georgetown Public Schools—1871.

OCTOBER 3.—On motion, the Secretary was instructed to cast the unanimous ballot of the Board for the election of Anthony Hyde as President; which was accordingly done by Secretary W. W. Curtis.

The rules adopted by the late Board of Guardians, September 5th, ultimo, were reenacted.

A printed communication from the Superintendent of Public Schools in St. Louis was received, and referred to the Secretary.

*Ordered*, That the regular meeting of the Board be held on the first Tuesday of every month, and that all the books and papers of the former school officers be placed in the custody of the Secretary and Treasurer.

### 1872.

JANUARY 5.—*Ordered*, That the salary of the Teacher of the Male Grammar School be fixed at \$1,000; Teacher of Female Grammar School, \$1,000; Teachers of Intermediate Schools, \$800; Teachers of Secondary Schools, \$700; Teachers of Primary Schools, \$650; Music Teacher, \$200; and that this scale of salaries take effect from the first day of January instant.

MAY 7.—A communication was received from the Comptroller of the District, calling for an estimate of expenses required for the year ending June 30, 1873; whereupon the Secretary was directed to inform the Comptroller that the estimated sum for which appropriation is asked is \$15,000.

The death of the Hon. James Dunlop having been formally announced, the Board adjourned in testimony of respect to his memory.

JUNE 11.—*Ordered*, That, in view of his former connection with the Board, and in appreciation of his long and successful services in behalf of Public Schools, Mr. William C. Magee be invited to be present at the Annual Distribution on the 28th instant.

JULY 2.—*Ordered*, That \$50 be paid to the Trustees of the Presbyterian church for the use of their building on the occasion of the late Annual Distribution.

JULY 6.—Special meeting. Board met at the house of Governor Cooke for the purpose of consulting with him in relation to the building of a new school house. Superintendent Wilson was present. After full consideration the President was authorized to purchase the property on Second and Third streets now owned by the M. P. Church, of Maryland; and to ascertain the terms of purchase of adjoining property.

JULY 22.—The President having reported progress in the matter of purchasing grounds for a new school building, he was authorized to call upon the Governor and ascertain whether money to make the first payment thereon could be borrowed.

AUGUST 6.—The President reported that Governor Cooke had agreed to meet the cash payment for the school lot out of funds he would provide, and that he had, moreover, promised to have the property surveyed.

SEPTEMBER 19.—Superintendent Wilson stated that he had conferred with the Trustees of the Linthicum Institute relative to obtaining funds from them for the purpose of immediately proceeding to build the new school house. Mr. Dunlop was authorized to purchase, subject to the approval of the Board, such additional ground as may be necessary to bring the school property to the line of Potomac street. Superintendent Wilson was authorized to procure plans of school buildings for the consideration of the Board. It was, further,

“*Resolved*, That in view of the proposed construction of a large Central School House on the property recently purchased between Second and Third streets, the honorable Board of Public Works cause Potomac street to be extended to Third street, whereby the health and convenience of the neighborhood will be promoted, and a west front will be at the same time secured for that building.”

OCTOBER 1.—Mr. Dunlop was authorized to negotiate for the property lying east of that now owned by the Board.



OCTOBER 4.—Mr. Dunlop was authorized to offer \$3,000 for the ground, without the houses thereon, on Second street adjoining the school lot.

NOVEMBER 7.—At this meeting of the Board were present Governor Cooke, Superintendent Wilson, Architect Cluss, and Messrs. Riley, Laird, and Gordon, Trustees of the Linthicum Institute.

After discussing the project of uniting the Public Schools with the Linthicum Institute and the Peabody Library, the following resolutions were adopted :

“*Resolved*, That the Board of Trustees of the Georgetown Public Schools accept the plan for a public school building presented by Mr. A. Cluss ; and that he be authorized to prepare plans and specifications in accordance therewith ; and, furthermore, that the Board be a Building Committee, with full powers to advertise for proposals, to make contracts for the erection of said buildings, and to supervise the work during its progress.

“*Resolved further*, That Superintendent Wilson be requested and authorized to purchase the property on Second street, consisting of two frame houses and the lots on which they stand.”

NOVEMBER 19.—Superintendent Wilson reported that he had offered to Mrs. Jones \$3,000, to be paid down, for the property owned by her opposite to St. John's church, she to retain the buildings and fences thereon, and to remove them by the 1st day of March, 1873, and until that day to have the use of said buildings and premises. This offer having been accepted, the Board ratified the bargain, provided that the title be found valid.

Mr. Dunlop was employed to examine into the title of all property recently purchased by the Board, and to prepare deeds of conveyance.

Superintendent Wilson was authorized to confer with Governor Cooke, and to inform him that the Board had bargained for the property for a new school building, and to solicit his aid in procuring money for the first payments ; and also that he request the Governor to have the surveyor of the District make at once an accurate survey of the property.

Letters were then presented for consideration, addressed to the Trustees of the Linthicum Institute and to the Trustees of the Peabody Library Fund, which, having been approved, the Secretary was instructed to sign and transmit them to their respective addresses.

As these letters relate to an interesting epoch in the administration of the Public Schools of Georgetown, copies thereof are annexed :

*To W. W. Corcoran, Anthony Hyde, Henry D. Cooke, W. L. Dunlop, and George W. Riggs, Trustees of the "Peabody Library Fund."*

GENTLEMEN : I am directed by the Board of School Trustees of the city of Georgetown to submit for your consideration the following :

The authorities of the District of Columbia are about to erect a school house on Second and Third streets, opposite St. John's church, in Georgetown, of large dimensions, to be of as imposing an exterior as is consistent with a proper economy.

The objects sought to be attained by the outlay are the advancement of the cause of education in the town, the elevation of the Public School system, and the establishment of better educational facilities for the youth of the town, of both sexes, and for the general benefit and prosperity of the community.

To aid in the accomplishment of these purposes, and, at the same time, to open up the only way which seems practicable for carrying out, at an early day, the designs of Mr. Peabody for the establishment of a library in Georgetown, the Board of Trustees of the Public Schools propose to set apart a room of sufficient dimensions on the ground floor, fronting on Second street, for the purposes of the Peabody Fund, where a library may be established, free of rent, under the absolute control of your honorable



body in every respect, with the privilege of withdrawal whenever such action is desired.

It is also designed to provide accommodations for the "Linthicum Institute" on the same terms, to enable the Trustees of that fund to carry out the objects of their trusts; they having already informally expressed their concurrence in the design, and their desire to accept such a proposition.

Connected with the building will be a commodious lecture hall, for general lecture purposes, and the managers of the Linthicum Institute contemplate making provision for popular lectures in connection with their other plans.

It is, in the judgment of the school authorities, safe to predict that the three interests thus combined, while they will remain under separate and independent control, will be, by this combination, of great and lasting benefit to the town, and open an admirable and speedy way for the consummation of the liberal and enlightened intentions of the generous donors of the respective funds referred to.

As it will have a bearing on the plans of the building, it is desirable to know, at your earliest convenience, whether it will be the pleasure of your honorable body to accept the proposition herein embraced, and the Board of School Trustees would, therefore, ask early consideration of the same.

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

By order of the Board of School Trustees of Georgetown,

W. W. CURTIS, *Secretary.*

*To Josiah Dent, Dr. Joshua Riley, W. L. Dunlop, W. Laird, jr., and Wm. A. Gordon, jr., Trustees of the "Linthicum Institute."*

GENTLEMEN: I am directed by the Board of School Trustees of the city of Georgetown to submit for your consideration the following:

You are already aware, through informal conferences with the Board, of their design to build a large and imposing school house on the premises opposite St. John's church, said premises being situate between High and Market streets, with a width of about one hundred and twenty-five feet, extending from Second to Third streets; the house to cost about \$60,000, and the ground not less than \$13,000.

To increase the usefulness of this enterprise, it is proposed to set apart, free of rent, a room on the ground floor of the main front of said building, for the use and purposes of the "Linthicum Institute," and also one for the establishment of the "Peabody Library," so arranged as to have each institution under the exclusive control of the respective Boards of Trustees, with the right to manage their own affairs in their own way, and to withdraw therefrom at pleasure.

In the department devoted to the purposes of the "Linthicum Institute" there will be added a Laboratory and other conveniences for scientific lectures, and for such school purposes as it is understood the Trustees design to establish and maintain.

It is proposed to combine under one roof the three institutions, each preserving its independency of the others, and each under separate and distinct control, believing that the usefulness and efficiency of each will thereby be greatly enhanced.

To aid in carrying out the proposed plans, the Board of Trustees of the Georgetown Schools propose to borrow of the Trustees of the "Linthicum Institute" the sum of \$50,000, at the rate of eight per cent. per annum, payable semi-annually, the principal to be refunded at the pleasure of the Board, at any time after five years, in sums of not less than \$5,000, said payments to be secured on the property to be improved, and the money borrowed to be expended thereon, the funds to be placed in the hands of a third party, to be expended as needed for the building, and to bear interest from the date of delivery, or to be taken by the Board of School

Trustees as needed, and the amounts so taken to bear interest from the date of delivery. It is understood that the fund belonging to the Linthicum Institute is in certain bonds, (as stated at the informal meeting,) and that they are to be received at par by the school authorities.

It is important that the Board of School Trustees be informed, at your earliest convenience, of your action in reference to the proposition herein stated.

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

By order of the Board of School Trustees of Georgetown,

W. W. CURTIS, *Secretary*.

DECEMBER 3.—Responsive communications were received from the Trustees respectively of the Linthicum Institute and of the Peabody Library Fund, the former signed by William A. Gordon, jr., Secretary, agreeing, on behalf of said Trustees, to loan the Board \$40,000, on condition, 1st. that Potomac street be extended to Third street, and, 2d, that an opinion be obtained from Walter S. Cox, esq., showing the power of the Board to mortgage school property, and on certain other conditions therein specified.

The latter communication was signed by Anthony Hyde, Secretary, stating that the Trustees of the Peabody Library Fund had, after careful consideration, concluded that they could not, owing to the positive terms of Mr. Peabody's gift, accept the proposition made by the Board.

Both communications were laid over for future consideration, and the Secretary was instructed to obtain meanwhile the opinion of Walter S. Cox, esq., respecting the power of the Board to borrow money for building purposes, and to secure the payment of the same by mortgaging the school property.

Notwithstanding these inauspicious indications, the proposed coalition of interests was satisfactorily consummated, and is still in harmonious and successful operation in the Curtis School Building.

The Secretary was instructed, further, to ascertain what guaranties the Governor could furnish relative to the payment of money for the new school building, and, if practicable, to borrow \$5,000 on such guaranties.

DECEMBER 4.—The Secretary having reported the result of his interview with the Governor, who had given assurances that money for the first payments on the property recently purchased could be obtained in January next; it was

“*Resolved*, That the Secretary be, and he is hereby, authorized to borrow, of the Farmers and Mechanics' National Bank of Georgetown, the sum of \$5,000 for sixty days, and to give a note for that amount in the name of the Board of School Trustees, signed by the President and countersigned by the Secretary.”

### 1873.

JANUARY 7.—Mr. Dunlop presented an abstract of title to the property recently purchased by the Board, which was received and put on file.

The Secretary was instructed to have recorded the deed for the property bought of Mrs. Jones, and to place said deed, after record, on file.

A communication was received from Walter S. Cox, esq., giving his opinion on the subject referred to him; the substance of which was that neither the Board, nor any officer of the District Government, was authorized to make such mortgage.

The Secretary reported that he had borrowed \$5,000 of the Farmers and Mechanics' National Bank for sixty days, at the rate of eight per cent. per annum.

Superintendent Wilson was requested to prepare bills to be presented to the Legislative Assembly, providing for the building of a new school house, and for the extension of Potomac street to Third street.

FEBRUARY 4.—The Secretary was directed to renew for sixty days the note for \$5,000 at the Farmers and Mechanics' National Bank. Architect Chass presented the plan and specifications of the new school house, which were adopted, and the Secretary was directed to advertise for proposals for constructing the edifice.

FEBRUARY 18.—Eleven bids were offered, of which that of S. S. Hunt was the lowest, and the contract was accordingly awarded to him, on condition of his executing, within five days, a bond, with \$25,000 penalty, for faithful performance thereof.

FEBRUARY 24.—A bond as prescribed was presented by Mr. Hunt, which was held for further consideration. A form of contract was also presented, but it was also held for future consideration.

FEBRUARY 27.—Present, with the Board, Governor Cooke, Superintendent Wilson, Architect Chass, and Messrs. Dent, Riley, Gordon, and Laird, Trustees of the Linthicum Institute.

*Ordered*, That the President and Secretary be authorized to enter into contract with S. S. Hunt, for the erection of the new school house, for the sum of \$69,115, on condition that said Hunt give an additional bondsman in the sum of \$5,000; and on the further condition that the contract be made subject to the action and approval of the Legislature.

MARCH 6.—The bonds of Mr. S. S. Hunt and the contract with him were submitted to the Board and approved.

APRIL 1.—Present, with the Board, Superintendent Wilson, Mr. Riley, of the Council, and Mr. Berry, of the House of Delegates.

Superintendent Wilson presented bills prepared by him, to be introduced at the next session of the Legislature, touching the Public School interest, which were taken up section by section, amended, and approved.

The Secretary was instructed to submit the following estimate of expenses for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1874: For salaries, \$10,000; contingent expenses, \$6,000; permanent improvements, \$16,000; total, \$36,000.

SEPTEMBER 8.—*Ordered*, That the Governor be requested to issue securities of the District of Columbia to the amount of \$25,000, as authorized by the recent act of the Legislature, to aid in the construction of a new school house.

SEPTEMBER 11.—*Ordered*, That a new Primary School, to be called Primary No. 6, be established in the Montgomery Street building; and thereupon the Board elected the required additional assistant teacher.

#### 1874.

MARCH 3.—Superintendent Wilson stated that Mr. W. W. Corcoran offered, through him, to advance two months' pay to the teachers and janitors without interest. Whereupon, it was

*Ordered*, That the offer be accepted, that the Treasurer be authorized to receive the same, and that the thanks of the Board be tendered to Mr. Corcoran.

MAY 5.—The Secretary was instructed to report the following estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1875, viz: Salaries, \$13,000; contingent expenses, \$5,000; total, \$18,000.



## REVIEW.

Georgetown is a hundred and twenty-five years old in this Centennial Year, 1876.

The Legislature of Maryland, by act of May 15, 1751, authorized Henry Wright Crabb, John Needham, John Clagett, James Perry, and David Lynn, Commissioners, to lay out and erect a town on the Potomac river, above the mouth of Rock Creek, in Frederick county, Maryland, and empowered them to purchase sixty acres, part of the tracts of land belonging to George Gordon and George Beall, at the place aforesaid, where it shall appear to them to be most convenient, and to survey the same into eighty lots, to be erected into a town, and to be called George Town.

The Commissioners met September 18, 1751, and chose Alexander Beall to be Clerk and Surveyor, and Josiah Beall, Coroner.

Mr. Gordon and Mr. Beall refusing to sell to the Commissioners the tract selected by them as "most convenient," it was appraised, and two hundred and eighty pounds, currency, were awarded to the said Gordon and Beall as damages, by the following jury, viz: William Pritchett, Ninian Magruder, Nicholas Baker, James Beall, Nathaniel Magruder, Charles Clagett, Thomas Clagett, James Holman, Charles Jones, Zachariah Magruder, James Wallace, Basil Beall, William Williams, Alexander Magruder, William Wallace, and John Magruder, son of Alexander.

The survey and plat were completed February 27, 1752, and the Commissioners named the lots, streets, and lanes; and the eighty lots were assessed at two hundred and eighty pounds, currency.

To Mr. Gordon and to Mr. Beall <sup>was</sup> ~~were~~ allowed the privilege of first selecting two lots each. Mr. Gordon chose lots 48 and 52, but Mr. Beall, having refused to recognize in any way the proceedings of the Commissioners, was notified that "if he did not make his choice within ten days from the 28th of February, he could only blame himself for the consequences." Whereupon, after a week's reflection, Mr. Beall sent the following answer:

"If I must part with my property by force, I had better save a little than be totally demolished. Rather than have none, I accept these lots—Nos. 72 and 79—said to be Mr. Henderson's and Mr. Edmondston's. But I do hereby protest and declare that my acceptance of the said lots, which is by force, shall not debar me from future redress from the Commissioners or others, if I can have the rights of a British subject. God save King George!

"March 7, 1752.

GEORGE BEALL."

The facts thus set forth utterly dissipate the traditionary rumor that this ancient town was named in honor of George Washington. The young surveyor was then not twenty years old, and a momentous futurity was to elapse before the adjacent capital of a great republic should perpetuate the love and veneration of his fellow-citizens. The name could hardly have been intended to propitiate the good will of the two Georges who opposed the "laying out and erection" of the new town; but it is more

probable that were the debates in the Maryland Legislature, on the passage of the bill, on record, we should have to concede that the town was so named to commemorate the "most gracious George" to whom we all were, at that time, loyal.

It is asserted, also, by many that the town was a Roman Catholic settlement, and that the old Georgetown College was the nucleus of organization; but an ancient record in the municipal archives seems to disprove this hypothesis. This record sets forth that, at a meeting of the Commissioners, February 24, 1772, Thomas Branan, having been appointed inspector of flour, the several oaths of Government and the oath of office were administered to him, and he repeated and signed the test following:

"I, Thomas Branan, do declare that I do believe that there is not any transubstantiation in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper or in the elements of Bread and Wine, at or after the Consecration thereof, by any person whatsoever."

It is not our purpose to suggest any controversy on these points; but having, in the course of our research, discovered these ancient relics, we thought that an exhibition of them would not be inappropriate to this Centennial Report.

#### LANCASTERIAN SCHOOL OF GEORGETOWN.

Georgetown had been settled sixty years before the public attention was turned to the necessity of education, and it is especially worthy of notice that the movement originated amongst the people.

About a hundred citizens, neither so rich nor so poor as to be indifferent to the general welfare, formed themselves into a society for the purpose of imparting to the citizens of Georgetown "the advantages of education according to the system devised by Joseph Lancaster;" and for defraying the expenses thereof they agreed to contribute annually about one thousand dollars. They no doubt considered that amount amply sufficient to sustain a school, after complete organization; but they soon discovered that to begin such an undertaking, to purchase a lot, to build a house, and to supply the necessary furniture, would require additional resources.

To obtain such additional resources the Lancaster Society, through their Trustees, memorialized the Corporation. Some response must have been given to that memorial, but we have searched the municipal journal in vain to find it. The memorialists represented a large number of respectable and influential constituents of the corporate authorities, and it is not at all probable that their request was treated with indifference. Legislation, however, seems, by general consent, to have been suspended, and meanwhile "a square of ground was conveyed by the Rev. Leonard Neale to certain persons (the Lancaster Society) for the purpose of carrying on a public system of education." The Lancaster Society, under these circumstances, and willing to put off as long as possible recourse to the public treasury, may perhaps have withdrawn their memorial and confined their efforts to the erection of a school house.

These efforts were successful, and in June, 1811, the Mayor, Recorder,

Aldermen, and Common Councilmen officially attended the procession of the Lancaster Society for the purpose of laying the corner-stone of the school house. In five months the building was completed, and a school was begun November 18, 1811, under Mr. Robert Ould, and contained before the lapse of many weeks three hundred and forty boys and girls under tuition. But the Trustees disapproved of this indiscriminate crowding of both sexes in one room, and to correct that irregularity, as well as to accommodate the throng daily seeking admission, they renewed their application to the "Worshipful Corporation." The Trustees congratulated the authorities on the success of "a plan of education so plain, so unembarrassed, and so ready of execution," which had been proved by the proficiency of the scholars, and in the increasing reputation of the school; expressed their serious objections to an intercourse of the sexes in an assemblage so large and so promiscuous; and, as the school house could not accommodate all the applicants for tuition, they asked the aid of the legal guardians and representatives of the town towards carrying into effect a plan already "digested," which would enlarge the accommodations for the boys and extend the facilities of instruction to the girls.

Either from pride or from diffidence, the Trustees did not announce this digested plan, but endeavored to propitiate the good will of the city fathers by presenting, as a subject of general regret and sorrowful reflection, that females, the distinguished ornaments of creation, should experience that neglect of education, unhappily too prevalent towards them throughout the world. Following this eloquent appeal a petition was read, signed by ninety-five subscribers to the "Lancaster School Fund," all constituents, respectable, influential, and legal voters. This petition frankly represented that "an addition to the Lancaster School, for the accommodation of the female scholars, would be a public good, and prayed for an appropriation of money sufficient to build such an addition as would accommodate two hundred female scholars."

Neither of these papers bears any date, but the ordinance of May 12, 1812, is so perfectly responsive to both, that we need not hesitate to assign to them a date prior to the date thereof.

That ordinance appropriated the sum of one thousand dollars, to be given to the Trustees of the Lancaster School, for the express purpose of enabling them to erect an addition to their present school-house to accommodate the females of said school, and prescribed the materials and dimensions of the additional building, which was to be so constructed as to accommodate two hundred and fifty scholars, at the least. A proviso attached to the ordinance betrayed the fear of censorious animadversion. The one thousand dollars was to be paid in annual installments of two hundred dollars, so that public indignation might be soothed by the long credit, for the last installment would not be payable until May, 1816.

But the result of this legislation relieved the Corporation from all fears of censure, and the Lancaster School had, meanwhile, diffused its meliorative influences so widely, that the Councils felt authorized to manifest their good will in a more decided manner. Some months before the last install-



ment of two hundred dollars was due, an ordinance, of October 6, 1815, provided that, instead of the trifling annuity theretofore allowed to the Lancaster School, there should thereafter be paid, yearly and every year, to the Trustees thereof, the sum of one thousand dollars, for the purpose of assisting the said Trustees in defraying the expenses of the school. The conditions annexed to the grant were that the Trustees should receive all destitute children and cause them to be educated; that all children, on completing their education, should be bound out according to the laws in force in the county; that an annual report of the condition of the school be made by the Trustees, and that the schools should be subject to occasional visits of four persons out of the Councils, for the purpose of inspecting the operation thereof and to see that order and morality were maintained, as well in as out of the school.

For nine years the schools were carried on in harmony and to the satisfaction of the community and of the corporate authorities. The annual reports must have been regularly made by the Trustees, but, although the utmost freedom of search amongst the archives of Georgetown was allowed to me by their custodian, Mr. Surveyor Forsyth, with the assistance of Mr. J. J. Bogue, an intelligent and polite coadjutor, not one of them could be found. The Lancaster Society seems to have left everything relating to the schools to the discretion of the Trustees, and those gentlemen did not, it seems, suppose that the monotonous routine of school-keeping could ever become a subject of inquiry. We are, therefore, left to infer or to conjecture the proceedings of the School Trustees from the records of municipal legislation.

During this period the Corporation was admonished of the danger of transgressing the line of secular policy in relation to schools. Application for aid in maintaining a free school was made by a religious society. An appropriation of two hundred dollars was granted, and the lot on which the school house stood was exempted from taxes. But these favors were soon afterwards withheld. The feelings of the American people are deeply and sincerely religious, but their theological opinions are not concordant. Conscience and worship are both equally free, and the increase and prosperity of each church are dependent, exclusively, on private liberality and enterprise.

For thirty-two years the Lancasterian School had been sustained by private contribution and municipal aid. The list of subscribers to the Lancaster School Fund exhibited the names of few survivors, and those few could not, fairly, be expected to make good the deficiencies in the fund with their individual offerings. They had nobly volunteered to do a good work, and had done it well. They had broken up the fallow ground, ploughed the field and sowed the seed, and the successive harvests had supplied an entire generation with intellectual and moral nourishment. Their fellow-citizens appreciated their beneficent labors, and, prompted by public opinion, the Municipality passed the ordinance of December 31, 1842.

This ordinance declared that the schools then in operation, and sup-

ported by appropriations of the public money, be taken under the exclusive care of the corporate authority, and that Guardians thereof be annually appointed, in joint meeting of the two Boards, on the first Monday in January;

That the Guardians of the Georgetown School should consist of seven members, two, at least, of whom shall be members of the Corporation, and were thereby invested with full powers to keep and manage said schools in such manner as they should deem best;

And that, so soon as the organization of the Board of Guardians shall have been reported to the Mayor, the Clerk of the Corporation was authorized and directed to transfer and pay the amounts appropriated for education to said Guardians.

#### GEORGETOWN SCHOOL.

Who constituted the first Board of the Georgetown schools is not shown by the legislative record. The regular annual appropriation of one thousand dollars allowed by the ordinance of October 6, 1815, seems to have been enough to defray expenses; for, up to November, 1847, only two appropriations, amounting to three hundred and fifty dollars, were required. The Guardians kept no journal of their meetings, neither was there found on file any copy of their periodical reports or other document.

In 1848, however, that omission was supplied; and until the consolidation of 1874, there is a continuous narrative of twenty-six years. The Board of Guardians for 1848 met on the 5th of January, and were duly organized. The removal of the schools to other rooms was the only remarkable event in their administration until September, when they were served with a copy of a joint resolution directing the Guardians to charge and receive pay for all scholars whose parents or guardians are, in the opinion of a majority of the Board, able to pay not exceeding one dollar a month for the general use of the school. Whereupon the Board *ordered* that the Principals of the school furnish lists of their respective scholars from which the Board may ascertain whose parents may be able to pay for the tuition of their children. These directions were not agreeable to the Board, for no further mention of nor allusion to the subject appears on the minutes. Inquisitorial duties were imposed on them which no American gentleman could possibly perform; and the Councils, by their silence, seemed to attribute the adoption of the joint resolution to inadvertence.

From 1848 to 1853 was an era of good feeling for the teachers, for their salaries were twice raised; but the unfair discrimination shown against the "ornaments of creation" in the gradation of salaries recalls the "sorrowful reflection" suggested by Mr. Robert Beverley. The Principal Teacher of the male school was allowed five hundred and fifty dollars, while the Principal Teacher of the female school was allowed only one half that amount, two hundred and twenty-five dollars, which was, moreover, fifty dollars less than the salary of the Assistant Teacher of the male school!

The Corporation, having been informed, in 1849, by the Board that the

interests of the schools required more ample accommodations than those afforded by the Hall of the Vigilant Fire Company, passed the ordinance of August 11th, 1849, appropriating twelve hundred dollars for the purchase of the Methodist Episcopal Church on Montgomery street, and an additional amount, not exceeding eight hundred dollars, for adapting the same to the comfortable accommodation of the schools. The purchase and alterations must have been promptly made; the day, however, when it was first occupied by the schools is not mentioned, but the minutes, of November 9, 1850, are dated "at the New School House." In the ordinance purchasing this building, there was a provision that the Trustees were to pay interest, annually, on the two thousand dollars, to the Corporation; but this condition does not appear to have been insisted on, and was formally repealed in 1852.

In 1851 the Councils appropriated, at the request of the Board, seventy-five dollars for the purchase of premiums at the Annual Exhibition, but in 1852 they did not feel able to afford such an expenditure; and, but for the generosity of Mr. W. W. Corcoran, whose father, forty-three years before, made the first appeal to the corporate authorities on behalf of the Public Schools, the children would have been sorely disappointed. Mr. Corcoran sent one hundred dollars to the Board for the purchase of premiums, and annually repeated his donation as long as it was needed.

In September, 1853, the Board *ordered* that Mr. Craig, the Principal Teacher of the male school, be allowed five dollars to purchase instruments for pulling teeth. The extraction of teeth was not a punishment, but the toothache was such a common excuse for neglect of lessons and for non-attendance at school that Mr. Craig came to the conclusion that the removal of the offending member was the best way of maintaining discipline. "And it was astonishing," said the trustee who explained this entry, "it was astonishing to see the business he did! Odontalgia became so contagious or fashionable that Mr. Craig soon filled a quart-cup, more or less, with trophies of his dentistry."

The Councils having been asked for one thousand dollars responded by appropriating two thousand five hundred for school expenses in 1855, and the Board, having received it, set apart thereof enough to pay incidental expenses, and divided the rest *pro rata* amongst the Teachers. In May, 1856, there was some correspondence between the Board and the Corporation; in the course of which it appeared that the Board of Trustees had never kept any account book, and were, therefore, unable to submit to the Councils a statement of receipts and expenditures. They had depended, entirely, on the books kept by the clerk of the Corporation, but "they expected to present, if necessary," at the end of the year, a full and accurate exhibit of the condition of the School Fund. In regard to the personnel of the school, they reported one hundred and fifty males enrolled with an average attendance of one hundred and twelve, and eighty females enrolled, with an average attendance of sixty. The Report at the end of the year stated the number of males enrolled at one hundred and fifty-eight with an average attendance of one hundred and nineteen, and that during the year, fifty



had been admitted, and fifty-two withdrawn. Of the females seventy-one were enrolled, with an average attendance of fifty-six; and that, during the year, sixty-one had been admitted and fifty-three withdrawn.

This irregular attendance was to be, no doubt, attributed in part to the crowded benches. The two school rooms had each been partitioned into two, and although the change at first conduced to order and good discipline, the wish of the Board to admit as many as possibly could be seated, neutralized these advantages. These inconveniences became so embarrassing that in March 1857 the Board communicated to the Councils their desire to establish an additional school at an estimated expense of nine hundred and thirty-five dollars. But the proximate Municipal election and the hope of aid from Congress induced the Corporation to postpone legislation on the subject. Meanwhile, the Board sought to obtain from the voters at the polls voluntary donations in behalf of the public schools. The attempt failed: but the Board soon presented an argument that convinced everybody of the necessity of enlarging the scope of their administration.

At the meeting in January 1858, it was determined to canvass the city so as to ascertain what proportion of the children, between five and eighteen years of age, attended school. In April the canvasser reported the whole number of such children at two thousand two hundred and seventy-eight, six hundred and seventy-nine of whom were in private schools, and four hundred and sixty-one were in public, free, and parish schools; total one thousand one hundred and forty: leaving one thousand one hundred and thirty-eight, almost exactly half, of the juvenile population entirely without means of learning. The publication of this census dispersed all objections. In one week afterwards, the Board were informed that the remainder of the School Fund was made subject to their order, for the purpose of building a new school house, and a committee was at once instructed to select a site. This was not done, however, until June 1859, when the purchase of the lot on the corner of High and Market streets was consummated. The plan of the new building was agreed on in April 1860, and the contract was awarded in the following May, but it was not occupied before September 1863; for this was a time of great political distress and perplexity. The building cost about three thousand dollars; and the expenditure for lot, furniture, salaries and other indispensable outlay, must have made up a total not less than five thousand dollars.

The year 1864 lifted up on high the "ornaments of creation;" for every teacher elected was a "female." Even the Senior and Junior males classes were put under their control: but the Board seemed still to be influenced by the traditionary undervaluation of woman's services, and reduced the salary of the Teacher of the Senior male school to seven hundred and fifty dollars:—fifty dollars less than allowed to the Male Teacher ever since 1856. The scale adopted was, however, an evidence of progress, generally, and was fixed at a more equitable standard, than theretofore.

Music was very cautiously introduced into the schools. On the 7th of October, 1857, it was *ordered* by the Board that "the children or such of them as would agree, may be taught music, at their own expense." In

the following December, Mr. Magee stated that "a large number of the scholars had placed themselves under Mr. Hunter, who was teaching them music scientifically, and that their progress was a source of congratulation." In August 1860, "permission was given for the introduction of singing into the schools, provided such arrangements be made without expense to the Board." In April, 1863, Mr. Magee was instructed "to converse with Mr. Daniels, Music Teacher, on the subject of giving instruction to the Town schools." In 1864, a music Master was included in the Academic Staff at a salary of one hundred and fifty dollars.

From 1865 to 1870, the administration of the Board received many tokens of public approbation. The ladies held a fair for the benefit of the schools, in April 1866, and Mr. Magee handed to the Guardians the net proceeds thereof—\$400—with a recommendation that it be devoted to the establishment of a Library for the schools. The Board approved the recommendation, but when they took under consideration the room to be provided for the books, the Librarian to be appointed and paid to distribute and to take care of them, and the binder's bill for occasional repairs, the project was given up, and with the consent of the ladies, the money was spent for a Piano for use in the higher schools. Major George Hill jr. also presented to the six schools as many beautiful silk flags, and Captain Thomas Brown gave nine neatly bound volumes suitable for premiums. All these donors were tendered the thanks of the Board.

New schools were the chief topic at the meetings of the Guardians, and the aid of the Corporation was again invoked, and a lot on Prospect street, about to be sold, at that time, was withdrawn from market and transferred to the Board. Meanwhile, room was made for thirty scholars more in each of the schools in the High street building, and the necessary assistant teachers were added to the preceptorial force. In 1868, the Corporation appropriated fourteen hundred dollars for the schools and ordered that City Stock be issued to the amount of twenty thousand dollars, the proceeds of which were to be placed to the credit of the School Fund. Proposals for a building were at once invited and of seven, the lowest was for \$9,737.00, and a contract was accordingly executed.

In 1868, 1869 and 1870, Congress was memorialized for help, but neither money nor land was available for the District Schools, although millions of acres were allotted for maintaining schools in the States and Territories of the Union. In 1869, the teachers' salaries were advanced twenty-five per cent., and the schools were graded as Grammar, Intermediate, Secondary, and Primary. About forty children having been reported as awaiting admission on granted permits, two half schools, of thirty scholars each, were organized in the High street building, and the requisite assistant teachers elected.

During this period a law had been passed, levying a tax of twenty-five cents on each one hundred dollars of assessed property, for the Public Schools, which yielded about twelve thousand dollars, a year. Out of the proceeds the Corporation was to be reimbursed for the stock issued in 1868.

In 1871, the Board began their administration full of energy and hope.

Four hundred dollars were appropriated for medals and premiums at the June Examination. But their proceedings were interrupted by Congress which, by an Act passed February 21, 1871, put the District under

#### A TERRITORIAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

On the 16th of the ensuing June, the following gentlemen were appointed, by Henry D. Cooke, Governor of the District, a Board of Trustees of the Public Schools of Georgetown, viz—Anthony Hyde, G. W. Beall, C. D. Welch, W. L. Dunlop, W. W. Curtis, C. S. Ramsburg and F. W. Moffat. The first regular meeting of the Board was held October 3, and organized by the election of Anthony Hyde, President, and W. W. Curtis, Secretary.

At the meeting January 5, 1872, the salaries were thus graded: Teachers of the Male and Female Grammar schools each, \$1,000; Teachers of Intermediates, \$800; of Secondaries, \$700; of Primaries, \$650; Music teacher \$200. Thus were the "ornaments of creation," at last, ranked according to the uses they performed; for which just act the names of these gentlemen ought ever to be held in grateful remembrance.

Under the new form of government, all public expenditures had to be estimated and submitted to the Legislature through the Comptroller. In response to a communication from that officer calling attention to this law, the Board reported, as necessary for the current expenses of the year, the sum of fifteen thousand dollars.

But a project was under consideration in the Board which involved the expenditure of a much larger amount, and which, if successfully consummated, would secure the permanent prosperity of the Public Schools of Georgetown. Some desirable lots were for sale, suitable for a commodious and elegant school building worthy of the city and of the cause; but the ground and the house would cost not less than \$75,000. The ways and means of raising this amount were the subject of frequent consultations. To these consultations Governor Cooke and Superintendent Wilson were invited, and contributed essentially to a favorable conclusion. The District Government could not give any aid; as the expenditures by the Board of Public Works had emptied the public treasury: and so utterly were the Territorial finances deranged, that the salaries of the teachers in the Public Schools of Washington, Georgetown and the County had not, for some months, been paid. In this strait, Mr. W. W. Corcoran volunteered the loan of a sum sufficient to pay the salaries for two months. The offer was gratefully accepted, and Mr. Corcoran advanced \$25,590, without interest.

The consultations, meanwhile, were continued, and resulted, finally, in a proposed coalescence of interest between the "Peabody Library Fund," the "Linthicum Institute," and the Public Schools of Georgetown. George Peabody had donated \$15,000 to certain Trustees, for founding a public Library in Georgetown, and Edward Linthicum had bequeathed \$50,000, for establishing schools for free instruction to the children of that city. The negotiations preliminary to this union were not encouraging, but an arrangement satisfactory to all parties was finally agreed to, and the monu-



ment of that satisfactory arrangement is the Curtis School House. In that spacious and elegant building, named in honor of Mr. W. W. Curtis, President of the existing Board, are ample accommodations for the Peabody Library, which now consists of about fifteen hundred volumes, with space for five thousand more. There are, also, for the use of the Linthicum Institute, rooms for scholastic exercises and for public teachers. The rest of the edifice is occupied by eight Public Schools. Mr. Adolph Cluss was the architect.

In 1873 a new Primary School, the sixth, was established, and the Board estimated the expenditures for the year ending June 30, 1875, at \$18,000; but their proceedings were again interrupted by a remodification of the local government. By act of June 20, 1874, the Territory was transmuted into

#### A PROVINCE.

and the administration thereof was vested in a Triumvirate Commission. The Commissioners consolidated the School Boards of Washington, Georgetown, and of the County into one Board of nineteen Trustees, eleven of whom were to be residents of Washington, three of Georgetown, and five of the County. This Board has jurisdiction over all the Public Schools of the District, without discrimination of color. Every change of official management, howsoever advantageous, is disagreeable to persons accustomed to the old routine, and this change was, no doubt, inconvenient to some. But experience has reconciled all. Instead of many different organizations for a similar purpose, the entire District contributes all its resources, and concentrates all its energies to a single end; and all harmoniously coöperate in measures productive of more general good.

The following statement exhibits the condition of the schools in Georgetown:

Number of scholars.....	1,439
Number of Teachers: male, 1; female, 21 .....	22
Salaries of Teachers.....	\$17,200.00
Expenditures, including payment of previous debts .....	89,107.15
Receipts.....	33,037.30
Value of school property.....	137,350.00
Average cost, each scholar.. ..	22.80

#### CONCLUSION.

The history of the schools in Georgetown embraces sixty-six years, during which period we have seen, despite all vicissitudes, annual improvement. The Trustees never neglected their duties. Out of nearly four hundred meetings, there were not twenty non-quorums. No one seemed to consider his appointment as a sinecure, but discharged his high duties with fidelity and industry. The places of many of these faithful servants have been vacated, by death or other casualty, but as examples of official punctuality and energy we recall the names of Brown, Shoemaker, Jewell,

Tenney, Bangs, Osborn, Magee, Addison, Hyde, Ould, Adler, Marbury, Beall, King, Magruder, Dunlop, Ramsburg, Curtis and Moffat.

The Guardians never "despised the day of small things." They were just as solicitous for the welfare of the humble Lancasterian School as they could have been for that of a renowned University. They took a heart interest in the scholars, and, in their treatment of them, seemed to bear in mind that they were soon to become their fellow-citizens. Allusions to their gratuitous tuition were never obtrusively made, and no where, on their minutes or on any document, can be found the word "pauper." "Charity scholars" was used in an ordinance of 1812, but the epithet was never repeated. It was *ordained*, indeed, by the Corporation, that the scholars, after completing their education, were to be "bound out," according to the laws of the county; and that parents able to pay for their children's tuition should be required to do so; but neither provision was ever insisted on. Indeed, the "free" schools of Georgetown were, from the beginning, animated with a patriotic and independent spirit.

The Corporation of Georgetown was always friendly to the schools, and assured their success by its enlightened policy. It was indeed, cautious at times, as it behoved delegated authority to be, but the solicited aid was never refused.

Georgetown has, now, seventeen Public Schools containing about fifteen hundred scholars, but a large proportion of her juvenile population is unprovided with schools, and it is impossible for that city to supply them. The necessity of education and the inadequacy of her resources to impart it have been repeatedly made known to Congress: but no relief has been granted. Lands worth more than a hundred millions of dollars have been given to the States, for Universities and schools; and even to the Territories more than thirty million acres have been granted, for like uses, but not a section nor a rood to the District of Columbia!









LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 022 116 734 A